

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



Oregon  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Released: May 9, 2005  
Week ending: May 8, 2005  
Volume: 06-05

Phone: 503-326-2131  
Toll Free 1-800-338-2157  
Email: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)  
Internet - [www.nass.usda.gov/or](http://www.nass.usda.gov/or)

**Weather:** It was a very wet week across most of the State last week, with fifteen stations reporting receipt of precipitation six days last week. More than an inch of rain was received in many areas of Oregon, while Crescent City, a coastal area received over two inches of rain. Seasonal precipitation remained above normal for Bend, Burns, Redmond, and Rome, but after last week Baker City and Union were above normal as well. High temperatures ranged in the sixties and seventies, with the high of 78 degrees Fahrenheit being recorded in Echo. Overnight lows were generally in the thirties and forties. Snowpack percentages remain low at 15% to 50% of average. Growing degree days (base 50F) were as high as 91 in Hermiston.

**Field Crops:** Another week of relatively wet conditions slowed fieldwork throughout much of the State. Wheat and barley crop condition ratings showed improvement over the previous week. The cool, wet weather, especially in western Oregon, has provided an optimal environment for rust in small grain and grass seed fields. Too much moisture delayed potato planting last week in Klamath County. Strong winds in limited pesticide applications in Wasco County.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Pastures and rangeland continued to benefit from precipitation received across the State. Recent rainfall has also improved the creek and pond levels in many areas. Some ponds, however, still remained very low and producers in these areas continued to prepare for water hauling. Livestock were reported thriving throughout the State on new grass as pastures and rangeland continued to green up.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries were still very busy shipping plant material to eastern markets. Field rotation of potted plants began at many nurseries. Greenhouses still shipping large amounts of plant material to

retail outlets. Retail outlets were very busy with plant sales. Christmas tree growers spraying for weeds.

**Vegetables:** Vegetable planting for processors has been slowed by wet soils. Fresh green onions, herbs, and salad greens were available at farmer's markets. Rhubarb harvest continued in Washington County. Early planted bush beans were emerging in Benton, Linn and Lane counties. Potato planting was slow due to rain and wet fields in Southern Oregon.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Strawberry bloom continued in Clackamas County. Caneberries were approaching bloom. Fruit set on apples are pears looked light. Washington County grapes were attaching to supports. Late variety apple bloom continued. Most hazelnut growers have finished spraying for Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) in the northern Willamette Valley. Some growers began applying controls for codling moth. Southern Willamette Valley hazelnut growers still need to protect their trees for EFB as the rain continues. Prunes, plums and peaches were done with bloom; cherries and pears were done, or near done, with bloom. Early apples were done with bloom, apples were in full bloom. Blackberries and raspberries were leafing out and blooms were appearing. Blueberry bloom was mostly done, and strawberry bloom was starting. Early strawberries were showing up at markets. Mid-week and weekend rain resulted in the initiation of pear scab infestation periods throughout most of the Hood River Valley. Fire blight risk increased to moderate levels during mid-week. Codling moth biofix at the OSU-MCAREC was set on 5/3/05. Wasco County cherry trees were sprayed, although limited spraying was done due to strong winds. Grass strips between rows were mowed. Irrigation was more prevalent in all types of fruit orchards. Southern Oregon fruits and berries continued in bloom.

**Soil Moisture-Week Ending 05/08/05**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	4	12	78	6
Subsoil	11	24	65	0

**Crop Progress-Week Ending 05/08/05**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	90	89	88	89
Barley emerged	80	77	65	71
Spring wheat planted	98	93	97	96
Spring wheat emerged	82	73	84	77
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.1	5.6	-	-

**Crop Condition-Week Ending 05/08/05**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	1	7	34	51	7
Spring wheat	0	16	40	38	6
Barley	0	1	50	30	19
Range and pasture	3	7	26	60	4

## WESTERN OREGON

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** Excessive rain could begin to take its toll on grass seed crops in Lane County, unless the precipitation lightens. Rust is showing on some winter wheat. For now, moisture continues to improve grass crop, tall fescue is heading out. Meadowfoam is starting to bloom, crimson clover is brilliant! Prunes, plums, and peaches are done with bloom, while cherries and pears are near done to done with bloom. Early apples are near done with bloom, and apples are in full bloom. Many tree fruits will have poorer crops due to the extended wet weather. Blackberries and raspberries are leafing out and blooms are appearing. Blueberry bloom is mostly done, and strawberry bloom is starting. Early strawberries are showing up at markets. Hazelnut growers need to protect their trees from EFB as the rain continues! Early and greenhouse vegetables including radishes, shallots, new potatoes, garlic, lettuce mixes, and onions are going in. Bush beans are emerging. The cold is affecting some greenhouse crops. Greenhouses are full of new plants. Many markets are just starting to grow. Sales are dependent upon current weather patterns.

**CLACKAMAS:** Field crops are growing well, but some rust is showing. More sunshine is needed. Strawberry bloom is increasing past the early varieties. Caneberries are approaching bloom. Fruit set on apples and pears look light. Vegetable planting for processors has been slowed by wet soils. Activities at retail nursery outlets have been quite brisk, and adequate supplies have been available. Livestock are being treated to an abundantly lush pasture and are thriving very well.

**COLUMBIA:** A little field work was done during the rain breaks last week on well-drained soils. Otherwise, field workers were just waiting for the weather to lighten. Nursery shipping ongoing.

**COOS/CURRY:** Overcast & drizzly conditions prevailed throughout the period, particularly in the AM. Brookings. Officials continue to be concerned about potential fire danger this summer, although projections for continued precipitation early next week may help. Low temp for the period in Curry was 47.63 degrees, 5.51 degrees above the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 63.62 degrees, 1.96 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 1.53 inches over 4 days, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2001-2004) average of 0.40 inches. Weather year precipitation stands at 61.78 inches, still 0.04 inches below the 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004) and 2.76 inches below the historical average (through April) of 64.54 inches precipitation. Low temp for the period in Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry) was 41.83 degrees, 3.42 degrees above the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 63.84 degrees, 1.57 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for

the period was 0.57 inches over 6 days compared to a 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004) of 0.32 inches. Weather year precipitation stands at 42.04 inches, 3.40 inches below the 5-year average including 4 drought years, 2001 – 2004, and 10.81 inches below the historic average of 52.85 inches through April.

**JACKSON:** Experienced a very wet week. Above normal amounts of precipitation for this time of year. All crops are growing from the vast amounts of moisture and the warm conditions that have been present for the last week. The wet conditions have made it difficult for producers to get in their fields to do their spring time maintenance. The recent rain has helped reduce the drought conditions from the lack of moisture from this winter.

**JOSEPHINE:** A very beautiful spring here--the late watering really pushed the flowers and the growth. The colors and variety of bloom has been really exceptional. Animals look real good and there is much feed for them right now. Blueberries continue to bloom as do all the other fruit trees--pears, plums, peaches, and apples. All the creeks and rivers are running high right now due to precipitation and snow run-off. Lakes are filling up nicely!

**MARION:** Moisture and mild temperatures continue to promote rapid crop growth.

**WASHINGTON:** Crimson clover nearing full bloom. Red clover and alfalfa close to cutting readiness. Grass for seed weed control continues. Sugarbeets for seed growing well. Rhubarb harvest is beginning. Grapes are attaching to supports, and apples continue to bloom in late varieties. Fresh green onions and salad greens are at the Farmers Markets. Herbs are plentiful. Bedding plants and potted plants are ready for marketing. Field rotation of potted plants began. Cows and calves are doing well. Pastures have firmed some and supplemental feeding continues.

**YAMHILL:** Heavy rains on Sunday in the McMinnville area. Most hazelnut growers have now finished their EFB sprays. Some apple growers began applying controls for codling moth. Grass seed crops continue to look quite good in spite of some Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus infections in a few two-year-old fields, and early rust in a number of new plantings of perennial ryegrass. There is a supply problem with plant growth regulators for use on grass seed fields. There have been a couple of reports of high aphid numbers in a few tall fescue fields. Seeing some Cereal Leaf Beetles showing up in grain fields. Red clover seed fields being cut for silage. Hop yards growing rapidly with the warmer weather.

## EASTERN OREGON

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** Weather has continued to be cool and wet. There were numerous showers this last week. There was a relatively powerful rain storm Sunday evening that appeared to be relatively wide spread across central Oregon. Much of the irrigated crop acreage has not been irrigated nearly as much by this time as in years past. This spring is a wonderful one for irrigators and anyone who has dryland cereals for the range! First week of May growing degree days are the same as last year for the most part across the central Oregon region. Precipitation is way above average, though it has come in many spotty storms across the region. Most the chickpea fields have emerged. There are some clover mites appearing in some grass fields in Deschutes County. Grapes in home yards have begun leafing out. Lilacs will probably bloom this week.

**GILLIAM:** Thunderstorms produced significant rainfall in isolated locations. There are dramatic differences in conditions within the county. Parts have received very good moisture and other parts are very dry. For example: Condon had a very good rain last week and 12 miles south west of Condon didn't receive any moisture at all. The north end of the county is very dry. Wheat in some moisture-stressed south-facing fields in the mid to north part of Gilliam County have begun to die back from lack of moisture.

**HARNEY:** Alfalfa coming nicely, and grass is looking good. Livestock is out. Reservoirs are full. We had hard rains with much run off on Thursday and Friday.

**HOOD RIVER:** Mid-week and weekend rain resulted in the initiation of pear scab infection periods throughout most of the Hood River Valley. Fire blight risk increased to moderate levels during midweek. Codling moth biofix at the OSU-MCAREC was set on <sup>5</sup>3.

**KLAMATH:** Cool, wet weather with rain and snow continues. Too much moisture is delaying some spring planting. Potato planting slowed due to rains and wet fields. Growth on crops continues to be slow. Early water situation continues to improve.

**LAKE:** Very wet conditions throughout the week and weekend. We continue to have cooler temperatures. Pastures have begun to grow despite

the temperatures.

**MALHEUR:** Weather was the news for the week. Precipitation ranged from scattered showers to downpours. Total rain for the week was about 1.25" at Ontario. Showers/rain have kept ranges and cattle in good condition.

**MORROW:** The last two weeks we have had small amounts of rain periodically. Conditions have stayed cool with little wind.

**SHERMAN:** Rain last night, May 8, of .63 inches pulled the May running total to 1.0 inches. This is already above the monthly average total of .79 inches. April was near normal, prior to that it was very dry. One grower commented that the recent rain was great for some wheat that headed out two weeks early near the town of Wasco.

**UNION:** Widespread showers and isolated thunderstorms occurred late in the week and delivered much needed "soaking" rainfall. Creeks are beginning to rise.

**WALLOWA:** Good moisture throughout the week has helped everywhere. However, some ponds are still not filling so producers are gearing up for water hauling.

**WASCO:** Rain showers occurred several days, adding nearly an additional quarter inch of moisture to the top soil. However, more rain is needed to carry the wheat crop to harvest. The winter wheat crop is in varying stages of growth, from 12" to 25", while some wheat is in the very early boot stage. Farm activities in grain crop areas included tillage and weed spraying. Limited amount of time was spent spraying due to strong winds. Cherry orchard activity included numerous types of spraying on both bearing and non-bearing trees. Grass strips between trees continued to be mowed. Irrigation on all types of fruit orchards became more prevalent this week. Annual pasture grasses are holding their own. Livestock continues to do well on range grasses. A thunder and lightning storm passed through Sunday night, leaving another quarter inch of rain.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 8, 2005 (as of 11:00 am)**

Station	Air temperature <sup>1</sup>				Growing <sup>2</sup> Degree days		Last week precip. <sup>3</sup>			Season cum. Precipitation <sup>4</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN	Total	DFN	Total Inches	DFN	Days	Total Inches	DFN	Pct. Normal	Days
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	46	66	57	+7	49	+35	0.38	-0.38	4	51.72	-7.92	87	143
Bandon <sup>5</sup>	42	64	55	+5	37	+23	0.59	-0.13	6	47.61	-6.75	88	131
Crescent City	47	62	56	+4	43	+22	2.41	1.64	6	48.76	-12.00	80	107
Florence	42	68	55	+5	39	+25	0.77	-0.16	5	53.72	-15.78	77	131
Tillamook	37	66	55	+6	35	+27	0.63	-0.45	4	58.90	-20.32	74	139
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>5</sup>	45	72	59	+7	67	+39	0.80	0.27	6	24.57	-11.76	68	128
Corvallis	46	75	61	+10	82	+58	0.26	-0.23	4	16.95	-21.70	44	99
Detroit Lake <sup>5</sup>	46	72	56	+9	40	+33	1.11	0.29	6	29.45	-31.63	48	81
Eugene	42	74	59	+6	61	+31	0.74	0.20	6	21.58	-23.45	48	113
Hillsboro	42	71	58	+6	59	+32	1.17	0.77	5	21.60	-11.98	64	126
McMinnville	42	71	58	+5	57	+27	0.80	0.32	4	19.60	-20.22	49	122
Portland	49	72	60	+6	72	+36	0.52	0.03	5	21.57	-10.17	68	124
Salem	45	74	59	+7	61	+39	1.07	0.64	5	21.00	-14.29	60	111
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	45	76	60	+4	73	+24	1.85	1.57	5	26.34	-2.77	90	94
Medford	49	76	60	+5	70	+28	1.28	1.01	6	15.53	-1.36	92	78
Roseburg	46	76	59	+5	62	+24	0.79	0.40	4	22.89	-7.05	76	95
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	41	68	54	+6	31	+20	0.65	0.37	5	7.99	-3.01	73	71
Echo <sup>5</sup>	46	78	62	+6	87	+39	0.15	-0.01	4	3.98	-3.47	53	84
Heppner	43	73	57	+5	53	+25	0.41	0.08	5	7.27	-3.66	67	82
Hermiston	46	77	63	+7	91	+43	0.23	0.07	4	4.55	-2.86	61	53
John Day	39	66	54	+4	30	+11	1.42	1.07	6	8.81	-0.54	94	88
Madras <sup>5</sup>	39	70	55	+4	36	+14	1.75	1.61	5	7.43	-0.65	92	87
Moro	41	71	57	+7	49	+32	0.40	0.26	5	6.41	-2.76	70	82
Parkdale <sup>5</sup>	38	70	54	+2	33	+3	0.41	0.18	4	17.87	-10.90	62	115
Pendleton	44	73	59	+4	62	+22	0.65	0.39	6	5.87	-3.98	60	73
The Dalles	44	77	61	+10	81	+59	0.35	0.21	4	6.91	-3.74	65	77
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>5</sup>	40	64	51	+6	17	+10	1.18	0.97	5	11.07	-2.52	81	67
Bend	37	68	51	+4	11	+4	1.17	1.03	6	10.23	1.02	111	61
Burns	33	65	53	+5	20	+6	1.20	0.99	6	9.21	1.87	125	79
Christmas Valley <sup>5</sup>	31	65	50	-1	10	-11	0.12	-0.09	3	7.16	-2.42	75	68
Klamath Falls	37	68	51	+2	10	-5	0.60	0.46	6	9.32	-1.89	83	68
Klamath Falls <sup>5</sup>	38	67	50	+1	9	-6	1.03	0.89	5	9.27	-1.94	83	95
Lakeview	36	66	50	+2	6	-8	0.75	0.47	5	5.78	-6.66	46	48
Lorella <sup>5</sup>	34	66	50	+0	8	-7	0.94	0.80	6	9.94	-1.27	89	98
Redmond	31	71	54	+6	26	+14	0.86	0.72	5	7.66	1.35	121	67
Worden <sup>5</sup>	37	68	50	+1	8	-7	0.83	0.69	6	9.04	-2.17	81	85
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	35	68	52	+3	18	+4	1.68	1.45	5	7.59	0.65	109	71
Joseph	35	66	51	+7	16	+16	1.23	0.81	5	12.94	-6.75	66	98
La Grande	39	70	55	+4	34	+13	1.14	0.79	5	7.73	-5.54	58	71
Prairie City <sup>5</sup>	39	66	52	+9	18	+18	1.88	1.60	5	10.17	-6.34	62	64
Union	38	71	54	+5	32	+18	1.66	1.31	6	10.21	0.78	108	80
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	41	75	59	+3	63	+10	1.36	1.22	5	5.11	-2.62	66	45
Rome	39	68	55	+3	34	+6	1.45	1.24	6	7.14	1.43	125	60

<sup>1</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. <sup>2</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit. <sup>3</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. <sup>4</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2004. <sup>5</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).  
Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Summary based on NWS data.  
Copyright 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Janice A. Goodwin, Director

Laci Banks, Agricultural Statistician